



*Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Wednesday, May 24, 2006

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MEXICAN NATIONAL SENTENCED TO 10 YEARS IN PRISON ON MARIJUANA AND GUN CHARGES

TUCSON, Ariz.— Jose Ramirez-Villareal, 43, of San Luis Rio Colorado, Sonora, Mexico, was sentenced here on May 18th by U.S. District Judge Raner C. Collins to two consecutive 60-month sentences. Ramirez-Villareal pleaded guilty on March 6, 2006 to Conspiracy to Possess with Intent to Distribute 833 kilograms of marijuana and Use and Carrying a Firearm During a Drug Trafficking Offense.

On March 7, 2005, Ramirez-Villareal was discovered sitting in a jeep near Ali Wua Pass on the Tohono O'odham Indian Nation by U.S. Border Patrol Agents. Ramirez-Villareal, who had a 9mm semi-automatic handgun with him in the jeep, was being paid to act as a lookout and scout for a marijuana load that was coming through the area in a second vehicle. The second vehicle was later found to contain 833 kilograms (approximately 1832 pounds) of marijuana. The street value of 1832 pounds of marijuana is approximately \$824,400.

The investigation preceding the indictment was conducted by U.S. Border Patrol and DEA. The prosecution is being handled by Albert Kleiner, Assistant U.S. Attorney, District of Arizona, Tucson, Ariz.

CASE NUMBER: CR-05-0669-TUC-RCC(HCE)
RELEASE NUMBER: 2006-082(Ramirez-Villareal)

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